

Growing Up



Our third meeting

What we did in the second meeting:

In our second meeting, we talked about living away from home. We talked about the things people want to do when they grow up and how we could write a report. Everyone had ideas. These are some of the things people said:

Where do people live?

- We need to add hostels and family centres to our list of places where young people live.
- Some young people might live alone or be homeless.
- People who lived in children's homes, hostels and boarding school did not like them. Living on the street would be bad too.
- Everyone agreed that living with foster parents or with a parent was usually the best place to grow up (if you get on with them).
- There was more freedom to do what you want with foster parents than in a children's home and you get more help.

What do people do when they grow up?

- Everybody wanted to do most of the things on the list.
- Some people did not want to live on their own, get a job, get married, have children, make more friends or see their family.
- We need to add having a boyfriend or girlfriend, getting drunk, learning to drive, travelling, and helping to look after children.
- Young people who have been abused want it to stop.

Who should read our report?

- Social services
- After care workers
- Foster parents
- Other young people

What makes a good report?

- The front cover should have a colour picture on it. This could be a picture of people or things to do with growing up. Some people in the group wanted to make pictures for the report.
- The report should include things that young people said. This is the most important thing. There should be good and bad examples.
- There should be information about where young people can get advice and help when they are growing up.
- It should be easy to understand.
- There could be some short stories about people's lives. Some people in the group wanted to write a short story about growing up. Mark and Parvaneh could write other people's stories for them.
- The report should have advice for after care workers about how to make things better for young people.
- Social services may want to know about the numbers and graphs so these should be in the report too.

Writing the report

What ideas do you have?

- Did anyone bring any pictures or writing with them?
- Do you have any new ideas today?

What ideas do we have?

We think the report will be about 40 or 50 pages. This means that we can have different sections about different things.

Mark, Parvaneh and Julie talked about writing the report and they had some ideas for the different chapters.

- what our project is all about (Introduction)
- what the government and social services have done for young people leaving care, especially disabled people (Policy Background)
- how we did the project (Research Methods)
- different stories about growing up and leaving care (Case Studies)
- what things were most important to young people (Key Issues)
- how can staff make things better (Improving Practice)
- what are the most important points (Summary and Conclusions)
- where can people get more help (Useful Information and Resources)

Would you like to write your own story?

Parvaneh and Mark will write about the stories that different people have told us. We will use examples of things that people said. If you would like to write your own story about growing up then we can help you. You could write your story on one page. You could use these questions to help you.

- What was it like being a child?
- What things happened to you?
- What has changed in your life?
- Who has helped you?
- What is it like being an adult?
- Who decides what happens to you now?
- What do you want to do in the future?



Why did you want to help us with our project?



How can our project help other people?

Disability

Parvaneh has met about 30 young people and listened to what they wanted to say. Sometimes there was a teacher, a key worker or a parent to help with the interview.

- Some people had learning difficulties.
- Some people had physical difficulties.
- Some people were partially sighted.
- Some people were deaf.
- Some people did not call themselves disabled.



Who is disabled? Are you disabled?



What things are different for young disabled people growing up?



Can you explain why?

12 o'clock - time for lunch!

Who should help?

The Government wants to help more young people who are leaving care. They want to have a new kind of worker called a **Young Persons Adviser**. These new advisers will try to help young people by talking to them, and giving them information and advice about growing up.

Who do you think should do this job?

- Does it matter if they are female or male?
- Does it matter how old they are?
- Does it matter if they are disabled or not?

Who should choose that person?

- Yourself
- Your parents
- Your social worker
- Your teacher
- Who else should be involved?

What should that person be like? (tick as many as you like)

- Someone you already know
- Someone who had similar experiences to you when they were young
- Someone who knows what they are talking about
- Someone you can talk to easily
- Someone who can help with practical things
- Someone who is always there for you
- Someone you can go to in an emergency
- Someone you can talk to privately
- Someone who understands
- What else?

If a young person was living away from home, who would be the best person to help them? Who should they go to for help?



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Can you explain why?

What should they help with?

When Parvaneh met young people in Bradford, they told her about lots of things that they wanted to do and about who had helped them. If an adviser wanted to help young people what kinds of things could they help with?

- finding a good school or college (education and training)
- getting a job (employment)
- finding the right place to live (accommodation)
- making friends and having a social life (social support)
- dealing with money (benefits and budgeting)
- enjoying your spare time (leisure)
- having someone to talk to when things are difficult (emotional support)
- going out (transport and access)
- looking after yourself (health)
- keeping safe (protection and abuse)
- finding out about things (information)
- dealing with relatives (family contact)
- boyfriends and girlfriends (sexuality and relationships)
- having children (family planning and parenthood)
- doing ordinary things (independent living)
- making decisions (self determination)
- telling people what you want (communication and advocacy)



What else could they help with?



If you had the job of a Young Persons Adviser how would you help people?

Did you have a good day?

Thank you for coming to our third meeting. We hope you enjoyed the day.



What was good and what was bad?

Meeting people again



Talking in a group



Reading this book



Lunch



Getting paid



Would you like to meet again?

